Attorney Docket No.: AM-4913.C1 U.S. Express Mail No.: ER534275303US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Andres Fernandez et al. § GROUP ART UNIT: 2881

§ (Parent Application)

SERIAL NO.: Unknown §

§ EXAMINER: B. E. Souw

FILED: March 18, 2004 § (Parent Application)

FOR: ELECTRON BEAM LITHOGRAPHY SYSTEM

HAVING IMPROVED ELECTRON GUN

§ Attorney Docket No.:

AM-4913.C1

Date: March 18, 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"

Hon. Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment "A" accompanies a continuation application of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/055,869, filed January 22, 2002, which is currently pending. Claims 1 - 25 as originally filed are pending in the present continuation application.

The drawings were previously objected to in the prior application, as were portions of the disclosure. Applicants are correcting errors in the drawings, and are submitting a new set of Formal Drawings with the present application. Applicants are not amending the disclosure, which appears to be subject to an interpretation which would be correct.

Please amend the application as follows.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. ER534275303US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: March 18, 2004

Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858